[English]

Paras TPS Expansion of Maharashtra

4177. SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has forwarded Paras TPS expansion Project to Central Electricity Authority for early clearance;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay; and

(c) the time by which the Project is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (c). In July, 1993 Maharashtra State Electricity Board (MSEB) had submitted to the Central Electricity Authority (CEA), a Feasibility Report for setting up 250 MW expansion project at Paras Thermal Power Station. Since the report was lacking in essential technical details, MSEB was advised in October, 1993, to submit a revised feasibility report, bringing out complete technical details. The same has not been received so far.

The Proposal can be considered for techno-economic clearance by CEA only after revised feasibility report and tie-up of essential inputs/clearances have been received from MSEB.

[Translation]

Employment in South Bihar

4178. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the MINISTER OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Godda, Dumka, Deoghar, Banda and Jaumi districts in Bihar are the most backward districts in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to create job opportunities in the said districts for the educated and uneducated unemployed youth;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether there are provisions in the current Five Year Plan to overcome the problem of unemployment and if so, the details therof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (d). There is no single specific criterion prescribed for the identification of the most backward district in the country. There is no new proposal to create job opportunities for the educated and uneducated unemployed youth specially in these districts. However, the government is implementing a number of self employment and wage employment programmes throughout the country for the poor people. Some of the important programmes being currently run by the Government are Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) and Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) in rural areas and Nehru Rojgar Yojana in urban areas. The Prime Minster's Rojgar Yojana is both for rural and urban areas. In order to focus on the problems of backward regions of the country, the second stream of JRY was introduced in 1993-94 in 120 backward districts of the country which had a concentration of unemployment and underemployment. The Employment Assurance Scheme was (EAS) launched in 1993-94 in 1752 backward blocks, in which the revamped Public Distribution System was in operation. The EAS has now been extended to cover 3206 blocks in the country. Since 1.1.96 the second stream of JRY has been merged with the EAS.

[English]

Financial Support to Nagar Palikas

4179. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated schemes to extend financial support to Nagar Palikas to enable them to take up development projects to provide basic amenities to urban population;

(b) if so, the details of such schemes and important features thereof and financial assistance provided to Nagar Palikas in Maharashtra during the last five years and the results achieved;

(c) the details of outlays provided during the current year to provide financial assistance to Corporations and Municipal Committees/Nagarpalikas to take up schemes of civic amenities; and

(d) the details of proposals received from the Government of Maharashtra in this regard and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of schemes to extend finanical support to Nagar Palikas to enable them to take up development projects to provide basic amenities to urban population through various Centally sponsored schemes are provided in Statements I, II, III and IV.

(c) The current year's outlays for different schemes are not finalised as the State Government has been requested to provide certain check-list information